

Dennis E. Chase

Clean Water Act experience:

Most of my work with the US Fish and Wildlife Service involved aspects of the 1972 Clean Water Act (CWA). Beginning in 1968, I was assigned to work on a variety of Federal and local projects that involved flood control and impacts on water quality. I retired in 1994 but continued to be very active with water quality and water quantity since that time. A lot of my effort was directed toward local development issues but I also worked with numerous groups on regional issues.

Project evaluation was accomplished through the 1899 Rivers and Harbors Act and the Federal Water Pollution Control Act. Segments of both of these Federal statutes were incorporated in the much broader CWA. I was part of the Federal teams that formulated and implemented regulations designed to accomplish the provisions of the CWA. Since the original regulations, there have been dozens of revisions to improve how the provisions of that law were accomplished.

Speaking on a simplistic level, there were two priority areas that needed to be addressed to improve water quality in this nation's waters. First, and by far the most urgent was to go after the thousands of point sources of pollution. Second was to find a way to address the less obvious pollutants which reached our lakes and rivers during surface runoff from rain events.

There were simply not enough professionals available to take on both point and non-point source pollution, so changing the focus to go after the second priority was delayed for many years.

Additional experience:

I participated, for 8 years, on the Flint River Advisory Council as part of the ARC effort to address a variety of water issues in the metropolitan Atlanta region. Work on this resulted in a number of changes and additions to local ordinances.

When Peachtree City set up a Stormwater Utility, I was invited to participate as a member of their Citizens Advisory Committee. Citizen involvement is a requirement for all discharge permit holders. I attended and participated in numerous planning meetings and later followup meetings held periodically once the utility was set up and running. I have not been invited back to recent meetings of a newly selected committee.

When Fayetteville set up a Stormwater Utility, I was invited to participate as a member of their Citizens Advisory Committee. I attended numerous planning meetings and later followup meetings held periodically once the utility was set up and running. I believe I am still considered a member of that committee.

When Fayette County originally discussed the possibility of either a Stormwater Department or a Utility, I attended several discussion meetings but the decision was to go with a Department. The more recent decision to reconsider a Utility involved four citizen committee meetings, all of which I attended even though I had not been invited. To my knowledge, no followup committee meetings have been held.

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